

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells that is used to cool down fuel cells,~~ comprising:

a water-containing base material; and

a ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive that functions to keep an electric conductivity of said coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ at a low level and to maintain a hydrogen ion exponent of said coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in a substantially neutral level.

2. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the base material is a solution ~~mixture~~ containing a glycol.

3. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive includes at least one of an ~~alkalescent~~ alkaline additive and an ~~acidulous~~ acidic additive.

4. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive includes an alkaline additive and an acidic additive.

5. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 4, wherein the alkaline additive is an ethanolamine ~~series~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 5, wherein the ethanolamine ~~series includes~~ is one of triethanolamine, diethanolamine, and monoethanolamine.

7. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 4, wherein the acidic additive is selected out of the group consisting of triazole compounds, phosphoric acid compounds, and organophosphoric acid compounds.

8. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive causes said coolant for fuel cells to have a hydrogen ion exponent of about 6 to 9.

9. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the rust preventive additive causes said coolant for fuel cells to have a low~~ has an electric conductivity of less than about 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

10. (Currently Amended) A coolant ~~for fuel cells~~ in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive ~~especially has~~exhibits ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive ~~performance~~characteristics against aluminum material.

11. (Currently Amended) A coolant in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~rust~~corrosion-preventive additive is a nonionic-~~series~~ substance.

12. (Currently Amended) A coolant in accordance with claim 11, wherein the nonionic-~~series~~ substance includes at least one of a saccharide and a nonionic surfactant.

13. (Previously Presented) A coolant in accordance with claim 11, said coolant is decontaminated by a coolant decontamination system using either one of an ion exchange resin and a chelating resin.

14. (Currently Amended) A coolant in accordance with claim 1, said coolant has undergone ~~deoxidization~~deoxidation.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of enclosing a coolant in accordance with claim 1 in a cooling circuit for a stack of fuel cells, said method comprising the steps of: deoxidizing said coolant; and enclosing said deoxidized coolant with an inert gas in said cooling circuit.

16. (Currently Amended) A cooling ~~system for a stack of fuel cells~~system, said cooling system comprising: a coolant in accordance with claim 1; and a cooling circuit in which said coolant and an inert gas are enclosed.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of decontaminating a coolant, said method of comprising the steps of:

preparing a water-containing base material;

preparing a rust-preventive additive that functions to keep an electric conductivity of said coolant at a low level and to maintain a hydrogen ion exponent of said coolant in a substantially neutral level; and

removing deteriorating substances from a solution mixture of the base material and the rust-preventive additive with either one of an ion exchange resin and a chelating resin.

18. (New) The coolant according to claim 1, wherein the coolant is used in a fuel cell system.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the coolant has a conductivity of less than about 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the coolant has a conductivity of less than about 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.